

**VIRUSES, NUCLEIC ACIDS AND CANCER.** A Collection of Papers presented at the Seventeenth Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research, 1963. Edited by R. W. Cumley. (Pp. 669; figs. 288. 128s.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1964.

VIRUSES, Nucleic Acids and Cancer is a collection of papers presented at the 17th Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research in 1963. It is a book for research workers, by research workers and is primarily concerned with oncogenic viruses. Those not working in this field may find it rewarding to read a few of the papers such as the one by Dr. Horsfall on "The role of viruses in relation to cancer in animals and man," but by and large it is not a book for the general reader.

Not so many years ago the few avian and mammalian oncogenic viruses which were known were considered oddities with no special relevance to the problem of malignant tumours in man. Now the situation has changed dramatically. Though the association of viruses with human leukaemia and cancer has yet to be shown conclusively there are few who now doubt that viruses play some part in the aetiology of some of the malignant tumours of man. This change in outlook has been brought about by our increased knowledge of oncogenic viruses in birds and mammals and much of the important recent work on this subject is brought together in *Viruses, Nucleic Acids and Cancer*. The close relationship of oncogenic viruses both in structure and biological properties to the more familiar viruses of infectious disease is apparent in many of the contributions. For example, the electron micrographs taken by Dr. Dmochowski and his associates of the Bittner milk-factor virus show it to resemble influenza virus in structure and Dr. Trentin and his colleagues describe the oncogenicity in animals of human adenovirus type 12. Dr. Hilleman in a general survey of mammalian oncogenic viruses stresses their ordinariness and points out that their ability to cause proliferative disease appears to be an unusual property only manifesting itself under certain circumstances. He speculates that cancer prophylaxis by means of conventional killed virus vaccines may be possible in the future.

The contributions to this book are many and varied, but the majority are of a high standard and it can be recommended without reservation to those who are prepared to follow what one might almost call the day to day progress in this particular field of research.

D. S. D.

**LECTURE NOTES ON PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.** By T. Ferguson Rodger, I. M. Ingram, G. C. Timbury, and R. M. Mowbray. (Pp. v + 108. 7s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1964.

THESE notes present a terse summary of lectures in psychological medicine for undergraduates. They could be used by general practitioners attending postgraduate seminars as indicators of topics for discussion and further reading. The notes also provide a useful pocket guide for others who on occasions need a knowledge of psychiatry in the course of their work. The addition of a glossary in this second edition is useful. A fuller account of the drugs used in psychiatry and their toxic effects would have added to the popularity of this booklet.

J. G. G.

**ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY.** By R. W. D. Turner, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.E. Second Edition. (Pp. vii + 155; figs. 177. 21s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1964.

THE second edition of this useful book differs little from the first edition published in 1963. It consists of a series of articles written for general practice which were published in *The Practitioner*. The reader will find it valuable as an introduction to a difficult subject. There is an adequate amount of the basic principles of electrocardiography, at least for clinical application. Quite a comprehensive series of illustrations of very good technical quality are included. The text is concise and easy to read and the interpretations are clear.

This is the kind of book which the novice will find valuable and it can be recommended to any clinician who wishes to gain some familiarity with electrocardiography.

E. F.